

REMARKS

This amendment responds to the Office Action dated August 28, 2002 in which the Examiner objected to the drawings, rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Concurrently filed with this amendment is a Request for Approval of Drawing Changes in order to label Figures 19-23 prior art. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner approves the correction.

As indicated above, claim 1 has been amended in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph no longer applies. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraws the rejection to the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

As indicated above, claim 1 has been amended to recite an additional feature.

Claim 1 claims a test socket with a contact to be electrically connected to an external connection terminal of the member to be tested so as to be used for testing an electrical characteristic of the member. The contact comprises a tip end to be brought into contact with the external connection terminal; resiliently-deformable bulging sections which extend perpendicularly with respect to the tip end; and a support section provided in an extended line of a direction along which the tip end moves by resilient deformation of the resilient-deformable bulging sections.

Through the structure of the claimed invention having a tip end, resiliently-deformable bulging sections, and a support section, as claimed in claim 1, the claimed

invention provides a contact which ensures electrical connection between the contact and external connection terminals of the member. Furthermore, since a contact load is equally distributed by the bulging section, the top end of the contact does not scrape the member to be tested. The prior art does not show, teach or suggest the invention as claimed in claim 1.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Grabbe* (U.S. Patent No. 4,995,816).

Grabbe appears to disclose in Fig. 3, a contact 66 is formed as a monolithic element from a planar metal sheet. It provides an electrical path between a first contact portion 68 and a second contact portion 70 as well as a contact force at the first contact portion 68, directed toward the left as viewed in FIG. 3. The contact element 66 includes a base portion 72, from which the second contact portion 70 extends. A cantilevered member 74 has a first end 76 and a second end 78, the first end extending from the base portion 72 in a cantilevered fashion. The first contact portion 68 is formed as part of the member 74 adjacent the second end 78. A first pivotal zone 79 is provided in the area where the end 76 extends from the base 72. This pivotal zone permits first elastic movement and then deformation within the pivotal zone 79 so that the member 74 can undergo pivotal movement. A generally C-shaped or other suitably shaped spring member 80 has a first end 82 pivotally associated, by means of a second pivotal zone 84 with the second end 78 of the cantilevered member 74, and a second end 88 pivotally associated, by means of a third pivotal zone 90 with the base 72. The contact 80 is formed by blanking out of a piece of flat sheet stock wherein the first contact portion 68 is in the position

indicated by broken lines at B of FIG. 3. A force is applied to the C-shaped spring member 80 to skew it to the left relative to the base 72 to create an overstress condition in the member 80 so that it takes a set. With the force removed and the member 80 in equilibrium, the first contact portion 68 will now be in the position indicated by solid lines at A in FIG. 3. Note that the skewing of the C-shaped spring member 80 to the left causes the member 74 to be preloaded, within its elastic limit, to the left. This effectively increases the operating range of deflection of the member 74 from the preloaded position A through the unloaded position B to a position C where the member 74 is at its maximum deflection to the right, as viewed in FIG. 3, without taking a set. An overstress stop 94 projecting upwardly from the base 72 limits movement of the contact 66. (col. 4, lines 24-62)

Thus, *Grabbe* merely discloses a contact 66 formed as a monolithic element from a planar metal sheet. Nothing in *Grabbe* shows, teaches or suggests a support section provided in an extended line of direction along which top end moves by resilient deformation of the resiliently-deformable bulging sections, as claimed in claim 1. Rather, the structure of *Grabbe* only discloses a cantilevered member 74, first and second contact portions 68, 70, a C-shaped spring member 80 and a base 72.

Furthermore, *Grabbe* discloses a cantilevered contact 66 in which the contact 68 will be in contact with a side of an external terminal and will scrape a member to be tested such that an oxide on an external terminal of the tested member is scratched. However, as claimed in claim 1, the top end will be in contact with a lower portion of the external

terminal and is displaced by the bulging sections such that the top end does not scrape the oxide on the member to be tested.

Since nothing in *Grabbe* show, teach or suggest the support section as claimed in claim 1, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and recite additional features. It is respectfully submitted that claims 2-4 would not have been anticipated by *Grabbe* within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) at least for the reasons as set forth above. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our
Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marked-up Claim 1

1. (Twice Amended) A test socket [including a test board, a seat for a member to be tested and] with a contact to be electrically connected to an external connection terminal of the member to be tested so as to be used for testing an electrical characteristic of the member, wherein

said contact [comprises] comprising:

a tip end to be brought into contact with said external connection terminal;

resiliently-deformable bulging sections which extend [horizontally].

perpendicularly with respect to said tip end;

[a terminal for insertion into a circuit board]

a support section provided in an extended line of a direction along which
said tip end moves by resilient deformation of said resiliently-deformable bulging sections.